

NEW JERSEY MILITIA NEWSLETTER

Volume XXII, Issue No. 7

January 2017

All persons are by nature free and independent, and have certain natural and unalienable rights, among which are those of enjoying and defending life and liberty, of acquiring, possessing, and protecting property, and of pursuing and obtaining safety and happiness.

-- Article 1, Section 1, New Jersey State Constitution

Police Abuse and Race-Baiting: The Perfect Storm

By Chuck Baldwin

The exponential increase of police abuse is a clear and present danger to the wellbeing of our society. It is not a fabrication of "leftists" but rather is largely due to the recruitment and training of police officers today.

More and more, the ranks of civilian law enforcement are being filled with former military personnel. This is not necessarily wrong, but the purpose of law enforcement is entirely different from that of the military. Policemen are not soldiers. And American citizens are not enemy combatants.

For example, back in 2012, Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), an office of the Department of Justice, offered 220 U.S. cities \$114.6 million in incentive grants to hire post-9/11 veterans to fill 800 law enforcement positions.

So how many veterans who suffer from PTSD will be filling the ranks of law enforcement? Add the stress of police work to the trauma of war and the results could be devastating where the line between citizens and enemy soldiers could be blurred in the minds of warriors-turned-cops.

Plus, more and more, police officers are being trained by military personnel (including foreign military personnel), and the equipment provided to law enforcement is increasingly military in nature. Look at the average police officer today: his equipment, dress, and mannerisms more resemble a special ops military soldier than a peace officer. And it is the military training of police officers that is precipitating the avalanche of unnecessary and unjust police shootings of American citizens.

Previously, I reported on the police killing of an unarmed man in Tulsa,

Oklahoma. Fortunately, the district attorney rightfully charged the officer with manslaughter in the first degree. Within days, police released video footage of a similar incident that happened in Marksville, Louisiana. This time, the victim included a little boy who was killed with five bullets to his head and chest.

In this case, the police officers were black and the shooting victims were white. That's probably why you haven't heard about it. If the police officers had been white and the shooting victims were black, the mainstream media and "Black Lives Matter" would have made it national Page One news. Which leads me to the second part of the problem.

President Barack Obama's White House, the national news media, and the leaders of "Black Lives Matter" have made police shootings a racial issue. Along with Jesse Jackson, Al Sharpton, et al., they are experts at race-baiting.

By letting the race-baiters turn it into a racial issue, too many white people mistakenly see this as a "good cop versus black thug" issue.

I say again: the problem is NOT race; the problem is the increasing militarization of police.

The other problem is that most American cities are managed by rabid anti-Second Amendment liberals. Cities such as Chicago, Boston, Newark, N.J., Washington, D.C., etc., are heavily gun-controlled: meaning, the only people who have guns are the bad guys.

What race-baiters Al Sharpton and Jesse Jackson fail to acknowledge is that most of the violent crimes committed against black people are perpetrated by black people--just as most of the violent crimes committed against white people are perpetrated by white people. Again, law and order is NOT a racial issue.

And police abuse is not a racial issue; as I've said, it is a training issue.

Ever since the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) was invented by President G.W. Bush, our local and State police departments and sheriff's offices have been increasingly militarized.

Since I have been writing on this subject, many retired and active duty police officers have written me to confirm what I'm saying and to thank me for saying it. I'm sure the percentages are with the "good" cops, but as the DHS-sponsored militarization of police agencies continues to intensify--and as the "good" cops continue to retire--the "bad" cop problem is only going to get worse.

Black folks in America's inner cities need to stop shouting at white folks and instead start demanding that their crooked politicians (both black and white) start honoring their oaths of office to the Constitution and eviscerate the gun-control laws so that people can start lawfully defending themselves. And "conservative" white folks need to get their heads out of the sand and realize that there is a REAL problem with police abuse and start demanding that their local judges and prosecutors start holding these lawless lawmen accountable to the same laws that the rest of us are held to.

Again, the issue is not black or white--or even black or blue. The issue is justice and constitutional government. Lady Justice is supposed to be color blind. She should also be blind to whatever uniform a person is or isn't wearing and whatever political label one has or doesn't have. As I have said repeatedly, we either have justice for all or we have justice for none. You will remember that when you are on the receiving end of police injustice. -- Chuck@ChuckBaldwin.com October 6, 2016

Inside Higher Ed

Drexel University issued a statement to condemn a tweet by one of its professors on Christmas Eve that said

that "all I want for Christmas is white genocide."

The tweet went viral, with conservative websites and many individuals condemning the tweet by George Ciccariello-Maher, associate professor of politics and global studies at Drexel.

More than 3,500 people -- including many scholars -- have signed a petition backing Ciccariello-Maher and calling on Drexel to defend him.

Via email, he said his tweet was meant to mock the idea of white genocide. He added: "White supremacy is on the rise, and we must fight it by any means. In that fight, universities will need to choose whether they are on the side of free expression and academic debate, or on the side of the racist mob."

The controversy over Ciccariello-Maher's tweet follows several others in which academics have made comments on social media that were understandable to those in their academic and social circles but that became highly controversial when shared widely.

-- insidehighered.com Dec. 27, 2016

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Fox News ran a report about Saida Grundy, an assistant professor of sociology and African-American studies at Boston University. The report revolved around Grundy's tweets about race, collected in recent months and posted at SoCawlege.com, a conservative blog about college life. Some of the more controversial posts attributed to Grundy include one asking, "Why is white america [sic] so reluctant to identify white college males as a problem population?" Another allegedly says, "Every [Martin Luther King Jr.] week I commit myself to not spending a dime in white-owned businesses. And every year [I] find it nearly impossible." Capping off a multitweet conversation about the uniqueness of European slavery, Grundy allegedly wrote, "in other words, deal with your white sh*t [sic], white people. Slavery is a *YALL* thing."

Grundy did not return requests for comment. The chair of the sociology department did not return a request for comment, while Gene Jarrett, associate dean of the faculty for humanities and professor of English and African-American studies, referred questions back to Colin Riley, a Boston U. spokesman.

-- insidehighered.com May 12, 2015

* * *

Speeches by conservative commentator Milo Yiannopoulos and former pharmaceutical executive Martin Shkreli were canceled after heated protests erupted Friday night at UC Davis.

Yiannopoulos writes for the Breitbart.com website and is permanently banned from Twitter after leading a

harassment campaign against "Ghostbusters" actress Leslie Jones.

The school's interim chancellor, Ralph Hexter, regretted the cancellation and said, "Our community is founded on principles of respect for all views, even those that we personally find repellent."

-- AP January 14, 2017

Miss Sloane – Gun Control Flop

By John R. Lott, Jr.

Miss Sloane, a highly anticipated movie demonizing the National Rifle Association and calling for gun control, has bombed.

The movie seemed to have everything going for it. Liberal movie critics loved it, and it was backed by a hefty ad budget along with heaps of favorable news coverage. The Hollywood Foreign Press Association has already nominated the movie's star, Jessica Chastain, for a Golden Globe, considered a strong predictor of the Oscars.

But two weeks after its national release, it has made only \$3.2 million.

Out of the 200 highest-grossing movies of 2016, only ten exceeded the \$15.9 million television advertising budget of *Miss Sloane*. For every dollar spent on advertising, *Miss Sloane* brought in just 21 cents in ticket sales, dead last.

Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton have suggested that politicians are intimidated from passing sensible regulations only because gun makers want to make money. Like a Clinton or Obama speech, there is no response to concerns that the very gun-sale-control regulations being pushed in the movie primarily disarm law-abiding citizens, especially poor blacks and Hispanics living in high-crime inner cities.

Of course, Michael Bloomberg is never mentioned. He would spoil the story, since he gives \$50 million a year to his regulation-pushing Everytown for Gun Safety. This is 2.5 times more than the NRA spends on political activities. From 2013 to 2016, Bloomberg donated a total of \$48 million to candidates running for federal office. The NRA contributed just \$2.1 million. And that's not even mentioning the hundreds of millions that Bloomberg, George Soros, and others funnel into producing gun-control research.

Indeed, if it weren't for Bloomberg, there wouldn't be a gun-control movement today. Bloomberg's Nevada ballot initiative eked out a win this November by less than one percentage point, and only because of the almost \$20 million spent on it. In Maine, the same initiative failed by eight percentage points despite equally unlimited spending. Even

in Washington state, which passed the initiative with 59 percent of the vote, Bloomberg and his supporters outspent those opposed to it 33-fold.

Back in January 2014, prominent film-studio executive Harvey Weinstein promised a gun-control movie that would make the NRA "wish they weren't alive." Meryl Streep was scheduled to star in the movie (titled "The Senator's Wife"), but it is still listed as "in development." With each passing year it looks like Weinstein's taunt was never serious.

-- www.nationalreview.com Dec. 23, 2016

Obama's parting shot

By Thomas L. Mason

Another of President Obama's brazen acts as he leaves office is a "parting shot" at American gun owners by submitting the U.N. Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) to the U.S. Senate for ratification. For the uninitiated, the term refers to turning around in your saddle as you ride away from a losing battle and firing one last round at your enemy.

The original intent of the treaty was theoretically to prohibit arms transfers to regimes that abused human rights. From the very start though, gun control groups looked upon the treaty as a means to adopt their agenda — if Congress wouldn't pass gun control why not get the U.N. to make it international law?

The ATT gave them the opportunity they had been waiting for, a legally binding treaty imposing regulation and conditions on the transfer and maybe possession of any weapon from a pistol to a battle ship. The U.N. Human Rights Commission has interpreted lack of gun control as a human rights abuse. The treaty is now in effect and the United States has signed it [though the Senate has not ratified it].

The Bush administration's Ambassador Donald Mahley convinced the U.N., and countries supporting the treaty, to exempt firearms held under "national Constitutional protection," i.e. the American Second Amendment. This language was in the U.N. reports that were the basis for the final negotiations at the ATT Conferences in 2012.

The election of Barack Obama and the appointment of Hillary Clinton as secretary of State changed everything. Mrs. Clinton demoted Mr. Mahley and replaced him with Under Secretary of State Tom Countryman, a shaggy-haired disarmament specialist who had no interest in protecting American gun rights.

The "national Constitutional protection" language for the treaty was removed without objection by Mrs. Clinton or Mr. Countryman. The U.S. could have

preserved the language as the conference drafting the treaty operated under the "consensus rule" whereby all the major powers had to agree on the final text.

The release of Mrs. Clinton's Benghazi emails revealed that one of the reasons she supported the treaty was because it was opposed by the NRA. She wrote in an email in March, 2011: "You know we've tried to support the U.N. small arms treaty but we have run into, as usual, fierce NRA and congressional opposition. But, I believe we have to keep trying. All the best, H." Other emails showed her actively working with anti-gun groups supporting the treaty at the U.N.

In the final analysis, the fact that American rights were deliberately given away should be more than sufficient reason for it never to be adopted.

-- washingtontimes.com Dec. 15, 2016

Grandma Got Run Over by Obama: SSA Finalizes New Gun Prohibition Rule

On Monday, Barack Obama's Social Security Administration (SSA) issued the final version of a rule that will doom tens of thousands of law-abiding (and vulnerable) disability insurance and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients to a loss of Second Amendment rights under the guise of re-characterizing them as "mental defectives."

The proposal will affect those who receive SSI or disability insurance because of a listed mental health impairment and who have been assigned a representative payee to manage the benefits because of the person's mental condition.

Public outcry against the proposed rule drew over 91,000 responses.

The NRA took the proposed rule to task for its many legal problems, its lack of empirical support, and the way it would politicize the SSA's functions and stigmatize its beneficiaries.

The SSA did not attempt to answer most of the legal questions raised about its authority, instead deferring to an overbroad and problematic ATF regulation and to Department of Justice guidance on reporting.

The rule offers no due process on the question of losing Second Amendment rights.

Instead, the rule forces affected beneficiaries to file a petition for "restoration" of rights and to somehow prove their possession of firearms would not harm public safety or the public interest, even though the government never established, or tried to establish, the contrary. -- NRA-ILA December 23, 2016

The Truth about Islam

Is this really a religion of peace?

Is Islam really a religion of peace as George Bush, Barack Obama and John McCain and others claim?

Are the more than 27,000 terrorist attacks by Islamic Jihadist groups that have occurred since the 9/11 attack on America really a perversion of a great religion?

Are ISIS, al Qaeda and other Islamic Jihadist groups just collections of murderous psychopaths? Or are they following what the Koran, their Holy Book, is commanding them to do?

For the answer, one just needs to read the Koran.

In the Koran, you will find well over 100 verses that explicitly call on Muslims to wage war (jihad) on non-Muslims -- infidels.

Some will argue that the Old Testament also includes acts of violence, but the Old Testament is tempered by the New Testament. Nowhere in the New Testament are believers commanded to commit violent acts. Instead, believers are commanded to "turn the other cheek" when struck or insulted.

We get no sense of a spirit of peace and God's mercy when reading the Koran. The Koran is replete with texts commanding Muslims to attack the infidel. Here is a sampling: [Ed.: we've included 3 of 38 citations.]

Koran (8:12): "I will cast terror into the hearts of those who disbelieve. Therefore, strike off their heads and strike off every fingertip of them."

Koran (2:191-193): "Kill them wherever you find them, and turn them out from where they have turned you out. And Al-Fitnah [disbelief or unrest] is worse than killing...And fight them until there is no more Fitnah [disbelief] and worship is for Allah alone."

Koran (9:30) "And the Jews say: Ezra is the son of Allah and the Christians say: The Messiah is the son of Allah;...may Allah destroy them; how they are turned away!"

Objections & Answers

Objection #1. These verses were probably pulled out of context.

Answer #1. Read the Koran and Hadiths. Then decide for yourself.

Objection #2. It is possible that these passages are calling on Muslims to wage spiritual, not physical, warfare.

Answer #2. It's very clear that the Koran is calling on Muslims to engage in armed physical perpetual warfare (jihad) against non-Muslims.

Objection #3. Christians have also had a violent history, such as during the Crusades and Inquisition.

Answer #3. That was 900 years ago, largely in response to Islam's invasion of Spain and Europe. All serious Christians agree that the Spanish Inquisition was a perversion of Christianity, the opposite of Christian teachings.

Objection #4. It's unfair to be biased against Muslims because of the actions of ISIS and other terrorist organizations.

Answer #4. While it's true that many Muslims in America are hardworking and peaceful, 33% actually want barbaric and anti-Constitutional Sharia Law imposed in America on non-Muslims (The Polling Company, June 2015).

What Muslims in America Believe

[Ed.: we've included 3 of 18 citations.]

*19% of Muslim-Americans say that violence is justified in order to make Sharia the law in the U.S. (66% disagree). Source: The Polling Company, June 2015

*29% of Muslim-Americans agree that violence against those who insult Mohammad or the Koran is acceptable (61% disagree, the rest are not sure). Source: The Polling Company, June 2015

*58% of Muslim-Americans believe that criticism of Islam or Mohammad is not protected free speech under the First Amendment. Source: Wenzel, Strategies 2012

-- Ed.: Excerpted from a 34-page pamphlet distributed by Traditional Values Coalition, P.O. Box 5049, Hagerstown, MD 21741

A Handy Guide for Liberals Who Are Suddenly Interested in Gun Ownership

By Larry Correia

This post is aimed at my liberal readers. I'm a libertarian leaning Republican and gun expert, who thinks you are wrong about a lot of stuff, but I'm not writing this to gloat about your loss. For the record, I disliked all the presidential candidates.

Judging by your social media posts many liberals have been utterly terrified that your government might turn tyrannical or that evil people will now be emboldened to hurt you. I'm going to let you in on a little secret to keep those unlikely events from happening.

And that my lefty friends, is the 2nd Amendment to the United States constitution. Having gone through a war against a tyrannical government, the Founders understood that governments can go bad, so they made sure to note our God given right (or naturally occurring right, since a bunch of you are atheists) to keep and bear arms in order to defend ourselves. The 2nd Amendment isn't about hunting or "sporting purposes", it's about having weapons that you can fight

with. As an added bonus, you're a lot better equipped to deal with any common criminal who decides to hurt you.

So enjoy your newly discovered 2nd Amendment rights. I get that you're sad, angry, bitter, and fearful. But just like my people over the last few elections, you'll get over it. The really hyperbolic among you sound just like the Alex Jones crowd, worried that Obama was going to herd Christians into FEMA camps. So take a deep breath and relax. Your friends and neighbors weren't voting because of racism, they voted against the status quo and a really unlikable Democrat. And no, they aren't going to round you up into cattle cars.

But in the off chance they try, let's get you prepared!

-- jfpo@jfpo.org November 16th, 2016

Congressman To Introduce National Conceal Carry Bill

By Tyler Durden

Rep. Richard Hudson (R-NC) is set to introduce national concealed carry legislation for the next congress.

The bill, known as the Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2017, will allow a person with a concealed carry permit in one state to carry a handgun in any other state that permits residents to conceal carry, as long as the person is not banned from possessing or transporting a firearm under federal law, The Daily Caller has learned.

Rep. Hudson introduced a similar bill in February 2015 which never made it out of the House.

If the bill is able to pass the now Republican-controlled House and Senate, it is very likely a President Trump will sign the legislation considering he has vowed to support a national right to carry law on his official DonaldJTrump website.

"The right of self-defense doesn't stop at the end of your driveway," Trump wrote in a document laying out his positions on the Second Amendment. "That's why I have a concealed carry permit and why tens of millions of Americans do too. That permit should be valid in all 50 states. A driver's license works in every state, so it's common sense that a concealed carry permit should work in every state. If we can do that for driving – which is a privilege, not a right – then surely we can do that for concealed carry, which is a right, not a privilege."

-- www.zerohedge.com December 5, 2016

Lawyers Donate Millions in Pro-Bono Work to Help Gun Controllers Fight Trump's Pro-Gun Push

By AWR Hawkins

On December 7, the New York Times made two things clear: 1. Gun controllers are losing, as exemplified by Donald Trump's win; 2. Corporate lawyers are donating "tens of millions" of dollars worth of pro-bono work in order to help fight Trump's pro-gun push.

Teams of corporate lawyers began working for gun controllers in a somewhat unorganized manner after the June 12 Orlando Pulse attack failed to garner any gun control traction. The teams of lawyers "worked largely on their own," the NYT reports. Now they are unifying in hopes of halting the momentum of pro-Second Amendment advocates while simultaneously helping gun controllers secure some of their agenda.

It appears the firms realize political support for gun control is gone, so they are focusing instead on a fight that will be marked by "regulatory complaints" and appeals to "regulatory agencies." They are also weighing action against state-level gun laws that have yet to be challenged in court, specifically, laws that "force businesses to allow guns to be carried on their property."

Charlie Lifland, leading partner with the O'Melveny & Myers firm said, "This [gun control] coalition brings together more resources, more brainpower and more lawyers dedicated to making our clients and our nation safer."

-- www.breitbart.com December 7, 2016

Carrying while retired: what cops need to know

By Duane Wolfe

There are a number of considerations that you should be aware of as a retired police officer.

For starters, before carrying under the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act (LEOSA), check the requirements under federal law and applicable state statutes.

Whenever you are carrying under LEOSA you must have in your possession a department issued photo ID indicating that you are retired and a state-issued certification that you have met the firearms qualification.

Because you are retired, signs saying, "Firearms Prohibited" applies to you. For instance, federal property like the post office is now a no-carry zone for you. Under the influence of alcohol? Illegal carry.

If you are placed in a situation that requires you to draw your weapon

and/or discharge it remember "Stop! Police! You are under arrest!" is no longer authorized and could potentially place you in jeopardy of being charged with impersonating a police officer. Pulling out your retired ID and showing your badge prior to the officers responding to the scene could also get you charged.

As a police officer you were authorized to use deadly force, including using it to stop fleeing dangerous felons. Study the laws that apply to the use of deadly force by civilians, because that's how you will be judged. You only have the powers of citizen's arrest: Decide beforehand what situations you are willing to interject yourself into. You have no back up, radio, body armor, and no badge. Unless someone is being seriously injured or killed, decide to be a good witness. You can no longer be a cop — you're retired.

So you have been forced by the suspect's actions to draw your weapon and/or discharge your weapon. Now what?

If it is safe, stay on the scene and notify law enforcement as soon as practical: In most people's minds, flight equals guilt. If you must leave, only go a short distance to safety and call 911. I've been teaching Massad Ayoob's "3 Rings of Safety" to cops for years and it applies to you as well.

If possible, have someone else dial 911 and report the situation. Provide your physical and clothing description and your retired LE status to dispatch.

If possible, have someone you trust outside the building (if you are inside) to repeat the message to the responding officers.

If the situation allows for it, holster your weapon. Remember, officers are responding to a person with a gun, not you. Do exactly as you are told. If possible, face the direction that the police will arrive so that you aren't startled by their verbal commands and instinctively and perhaps fatally, turn toward them with a gun in your hand.

Protect yourself with an insurance policy: There are a number of companies providing insurance for civilians and retired cops who may find themselves in need of legal representation after a shooting. Do you want to spend your retirement years paying off an attorney? You may want to protect that retirement fund or pension with an insurance policy.

LEOSA provides us with a unique opportunity to provide protection for ourselves and communities. You need to prepare your mind and body for that moment by understanding the new set of rules that you are required to follow to legally act in your capacity as a retired LEO.

Duane Wolfe is currently employed by the Parkers Prairie, MN, Police Department.

-- www.policeone.com August 15, 2016

How the Oregon Militia Acquittals Reflect the Influence of White Nationalist Agitators

By Andrew Gumbel

Conventional wisdom has it that defendants never catch a break in federal court: the conviction rate last year was more than 95%. But it seems those odds improve if, like the leaders of last winter's armed standoff at the Malheur national wildlife refuge in Oregon, you are part of the radical anti-government right.

The clamorous decision by a Portland jury to acquit Ammon and Ryan Bundy and five others on conspiracy and firearms charges on Thursday night marks the third time in 28 years that a high-profile federal case involving armed anti-government agitators has collapsed.

Four years ago, an attempt to charge members of the Hutaree Christian militia in Michigan with sedition ended in similar embarrassment for the government after the judge said there was no evidence the five defendants intended to attack anyone, much less murder a police officer and ambush his funeral as the prosecution alleged.

In 1988, another sedition trial in Fort Smith, Arkansas – this one featuring a rogue's gallery of more than a dozen of America's most visible far-right anti-government luminaries, some of them already serving long sentences for violent crimes – also led to acquittals all around, not to mention the marriage of a juror to one of the defendants.

In the wake of the Portland verdict, some civil rights advocates and anti-gun activists were quick to suggest a double standard when it comes to civil disobedience and attitudes to gun ownership.

"Apparently it's legal in America for heavily armed white terrorists to invade Oregon," the former TV talk show host Montel Williams wrote on Twitter. "Imagine if some black folk did this."

Others suggested the prosecutors may simply have overreached. Sedition is notoriously hard to prove and the charge has been leveled only a handful of times since the founding of the republic. In the Oregon case, one juror said he would have had no problem convicting the defendants of trespassing but the conspiracy charge, which carries much stiffer penalties, was a stretch.

In an age of anti-establishment anger, jurors also appear to have been swayed by the sheer confidence of the prosecuting attorneys.

"The air of triumphalism that the prosecution brought was not lost on any of us," juror four wrote to the Oregonian newspaper, "nor was it warranted given their burden of proof."

There was similar incredulity at the not guilty verdicts in Fort Smith in 1988, as analysts pondered how the government could possibly lose a case against leaders and foot soldiers of the Ku Klux Klan and Aryan Nations, among other organizations, some of whom had previously been proven to have robbed banks, killed people, and openly called for the violent overthrow of the government.

On that occasion, the jury's sympathy for the defendants was clear. One female juror started up a romance with defendant David Lane, previously convicted of murdering a talk-radio host in Denver. Another female juror ended up marrying David McGuire, charged with plotting to kill an FBI agent and a federal judge.

It didn't help that the judge hand-picked an all-white panel over the objections of the prosecution.

A former FBI agent with extensive experience of the radical far right, Danny Coulson, noted that Portland may be a liberal city, but gun culture is deeply entrenched in Oregon and many people may have had some bedrock sympathy for the protesters' complaints.

"It's the tenor of the times," Coulson said in an interview. "A lot of people in our country are sick of government trying to control every aspect of human life."

"I'm not saying I agree with that position, but there are a lot of people who make that case... The bureau [FBI] is brought into this stuff all the time, and they don't want to do it. They don't want to be brought into it, and they probably have some sympathy for the cause."

Mark Pitcavage of the Anti-Defamation League, one of America's foremost authorities on right-wing extremism, did not agree that sympathy for far-right defendants was a given, in this or any other case.

"Almost every prosecution of right-wing extremism is successful," he said. "Our prisons are full of right-wing extremists. It's no more difficult to prosecute right-wing extremists than any other class of people. With any particular trial, though, there can be things that affect it," he said.

-- Guardian UK, October 29, 2016

Widow of Slain Oregon Standoff Leader Carries on His Mission

SALEM, Ore. (AP) -- Leaders of an armed occupation of a federal wildlife refuge in rural Oregon were driving to a

public meeting a year ago when police shot and killed one of them at a roadblock.

Now, LaVoy Finicum's widow and their children are planning to hold that meeting later this month in the same town, John Day. Speakers are slated to talk about the Constitution, property rights and other issues.

LaVoy Finicum was the spokesman for several dozen occupiers during the 41-day takeover of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge and has become a martyr for the movement to transfer ownership of federal lands to local entities. The U.S. government owns nearly half of all land in the West, compared with 4 percent in other states, according to the Congressional Overview of Federal Land Ownership.

Finicum's cattle brand, an L connected to a V with a floating bar, adorns bumper stickers, black flags and T-shirts seen at conservative gatherings.

The Tri-State Livestock News, based in South Dakota, recently ran a story describing Jeanette Finicum's dispute with the Bureau of Land Management over grazing fees. The agency administers 245 million acres of public lands and manages livestock grazing on 155 million acres of those lands.

Oregon State Police shot LaVoy Finicum three times on Jan. 26, 2016, after he exited a vehicle at a police roadblock in the snowy Malheur National Forest, held up his hands and then reached toward his jacket.

Authorities concluded the officers were justified because they thought Finicum was going for his pistol. But at least one FBI Hostage Rescue Team operator fired two shots at Finicum's vehicle - shots that were not disclosed during the investigation.

In March, the inspector general of the U.S. Justice Department began investigating possible FBI misconduct and whether there was a cover-up. The inspector general's office declined to discuss the ongoing investigation last week.

Jeanette Finicum insists her husband was not a threat and that he was murdered. The family plans a wrongful-death lawsuit, and Finicum said she will release more details during the Jan. 28 meeting. -- January 15, 2017

How a Theory of Crime and Policing Was Born, and Went Terribly Wrong – Part One

By Tara Boyle, Jennifer Schmidt, Maggie Penman and Shankar Vedantam

In 1969, Philip Zimbardo, a psychologist from Stanford University, ran an interesting field study. He abandoned

two cars: one in a crime-ridden section of New York City, and the other in a fairly affluent neighborhood of Palo Alto, CA. Both cars were left without license plates and parked with their hoods up.

After just 10 minutes, passersby in NYC began vandalizing the car. The car was destroyed. But the Palo Alto car remained untouched for more than a week, until Zimbardo took a sledgehammer and gave it a smash. After that, passersby quickly ripped it apart, just as they'd done in New York.

This was a simple demonstration of how something that is clearly neglected can quickly become a target for vandals. But it eventually morphed into what became the basis for one of the most influential theories of crime and policing in America: "broken windows."

Thirteen years after the Zimbardo study, criminologists George L. Kelling and James Q. Wilson wrote an article for *The Atlantic* in which they suggested that a broken window or other visible signs of disorder or decay — loitering, graffiti, prostitution, drug use — can send the signal that a neighborhood is uncared for.

Kelling and Wilson proposed that police departments change their focus from solving major crimes to maintaining order — such as keeping people from smoking pot in public and cracking down on subway fare beaters.

The argument came at an opportune time, says Columbia University law professor Bernard Harcourt.

"This was a period of high crime, and high incarceration, and it seemed there was no way out of that dynamic."

Then in 1993 Rudy Giuliani became NYC mayor, promising to reduce crime and clean up the streets. Very quickly, he adopted broken windows as his mantra.

Conservatives liked the policy because it meant restoring order. Liberals liked it, Harcourt says, because it seemed like an enlightened way to prevent crime.

Giuliani and his new police commissioner, William Bratton, focused first on cleaning up the subway system, where 250,000 people a day weren't paying their fare. They sent hundreds of police officers into the subways to crack down on turnstile jumpers and vandals.

Very quickly, they found confirmation for their theory. Going after petty crime led the police to violent criminals, says Kelling: "Not all fare beaters were criminals, but a lot of criminals were fare beaters. It turns out serious criminals are pretty busy. They commit minor offenses as well as major offenses."

The policy was quickly scaled up from the subway to the entire city.

Police ramped up misdemeanor arrests for things like smoking marijuana in public, spraying graffiti and selling loose cigarettes. And almost instantly, they were able to trumpet their success. Crime was falling. The murder rate plummeted. It seemed like a miracle.

The media loved the story, and Giuliani cruised to re-election in 1997.

George Kelling and a colleague did follow-up research on broken windows policing and found what they believed was clear evidence of its success. In neighborhoods where there was a sharp increase in misdemeanor arrests — suggesting broken windows policing was in force — there was also a sharp decline in crime.

In his farewell address in 2001 Giuliani emphasized the beautiful and simple idea behind the success.

"The broken windows theory replaced the idea that we were too busy to pay attention to street-level prostitution, to panhandling, to graffiti," he said. "Well, you can't be too busy to pay attention to those things, because those are the things that underlie the problems of crime."

Right from the start, there were signs something was wrong with the beautiful narrative. -- npr.org Nov. 1, 2016
Ed.: Next month Part Two

Letter to the Editor

NJM: enclosed are a few embossed envelopes — and two handmade greeting cards for you. Please accept them as a donation and please continue my subscription.

Additionally, I was convicted of two murders based on false statement and testimony of a man who was in the county jail with me. Recently a man came forward with information about him and said he will

make an affidavit about conversations they had on how easy it was for him to lie on me to get out of prison. If he actually makes that affidavit it will be useful for a commutation and maybe for another round of post conviction actions that will save my life.

After all these years of my trying to find someone to look into the case not one but two people, in different parts of the U.S., have decided to make a personal investment and look into it.

Thanks for making your newsletter available and for keeping people informed.

State Prisoner

Ed.: May all wrongful convictions be overturned!

"The Forgotten Man"

I call him the Forgotten Man. Perhaps the appellation is not strictly correct. He is the man who is never thought of. He is the victim of the reformer, social speculator and philanthropist, and I hope to show you before I get through that he deserves your notice both for his character and for the many burdens which are laid upon him.

Whenever A and B put their heads together and decide what A, B and C must do for D, there is never any pressure on A and B. They consent to it and like it....The pressure all comes on C. Now, who is C? He is always the man who, if let alone, would make a reasonable use of his liberty without abusing it. He would not constitute any social problem at all and would not need any regulation. Such is the Forgotten Man. He works, he votes, generally he prays — but he always pays — yes, above all, he pays....All the burdens fall on him, or on her, for it is time to remember that the Forgotten Man is not seldom a woman. — William Graham Sumner (1876)

What's in a number??

Our eagle-eyed Archivist has pointed out that our newsletter numbering system went haywire some time ago. Starting with this issue, Vol. XXII, Issue 7, we're back on track.

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ISSN 1523-4657

Back issues from 1997 to date can be found online. Just go to: <https://archive.org/> and in the Search Field, type in "New Jersey Militia Newsletter". So grab the PDFs and pass them around via email to others who have never seen the hard copies.

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